Indigenous People and the Modern World

An Exhibit at United Nations Headquarters, October - November, 1993

This Exhibit was produced by the United Nations Department of Public Information (Exhibits Unit), in association with the Centre for Human Rights and Hixon Design Consultants, Inc.

It places the struggle for basic human rights by the world's indigenous peoples within the larger struggle for such rights by the whole human family.

The montages of textiles and other materials were created from original pieces produced by indigenous peoples in various parts of the world. They were designed by Phyllis Ressler, Dennis Maust and Pat Augsburger, and constructed by Hmong women living in the United States. They were made possible by financial contributions from:

SELFHELP Crafts of the World (United States)

Community Aid Abroad TRADING (Australia)

SERRV Self-Help Handcrafts (United States)

BRIDGEHEAD OXFAM-Canada

UNESCO International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (Paris)

Consulate General of Canada (New York)

TEAM (Germany)

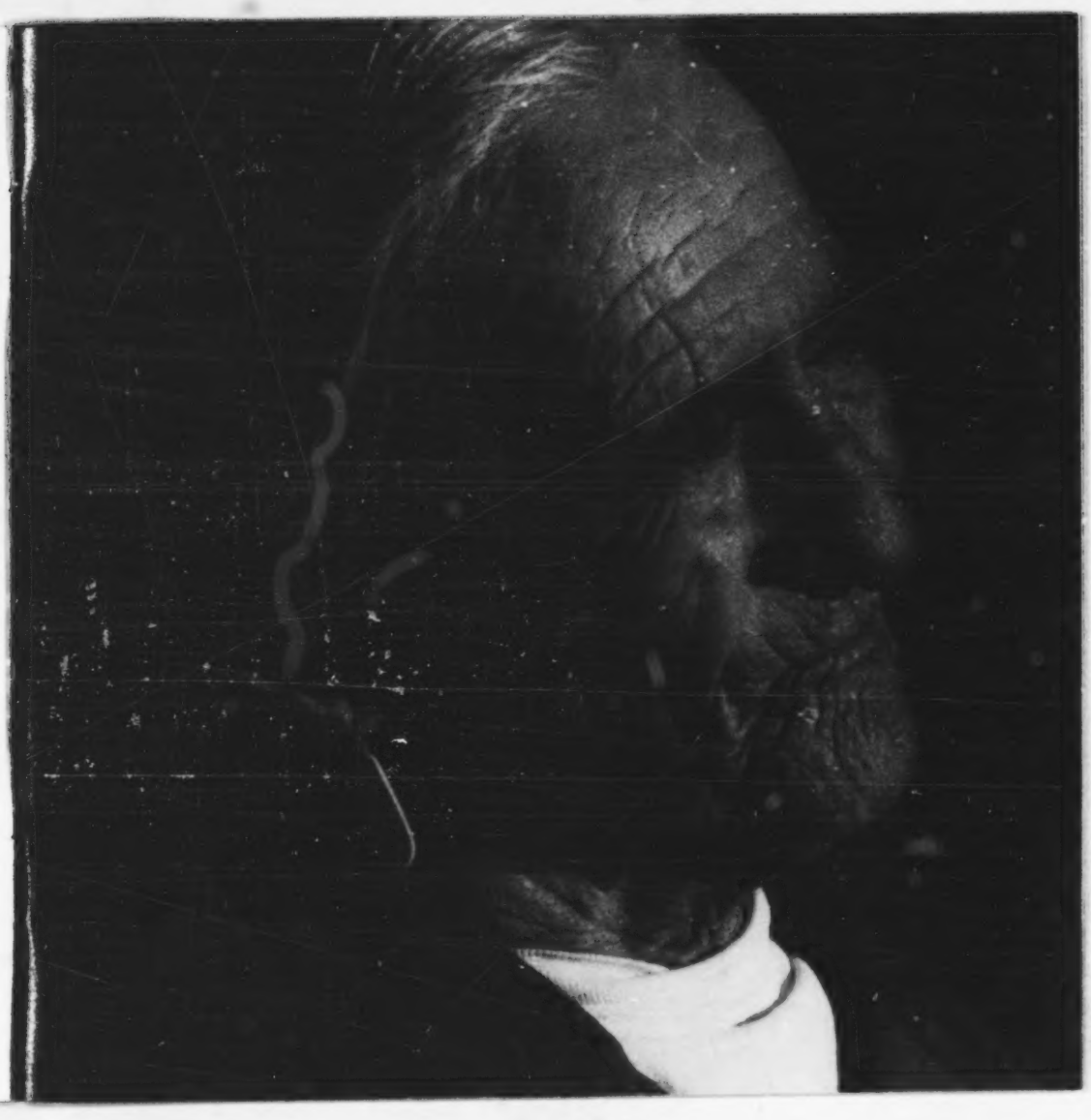
Oxfam America

The High Foundation (United States)

PUEBLO-to-PEOPLE (United States)

Alternativ Handel (Norway)

Photographs by Claude Coireault, Thomas Kelly, Susanne Page, and Antonio Vizcaino, were made available courtesy of Meech Grant Productions, from the book and television series, **Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World,** *by David Maybury-Lewis, Viking Penguin, 1992; by Jan Reynolds from:* **Far North** *and* **Frozen Land,** *Harcourt Brace & Co., 1992 & 1993; and by UN photographer, John Isaac (Qatuwas "People gathering together" Festival, Northwest Coast, Canada).*



"Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself."

Native American Chief Seattle
(1788-1866), United States

There is only one eye of the needle through which the white strand, the red strand and the black must pass.

Maori proverb, New Zealand

"What hurts Indians most is that our costumes are considered beautiful, but it's as if the people wearing them didn't exist.."

Indian leader, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala
(Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1992; Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993)

"Unity through diversity is the only true and enduring unity."

United Nations Secretary-General
Boutros Boutros-Ghali, New York

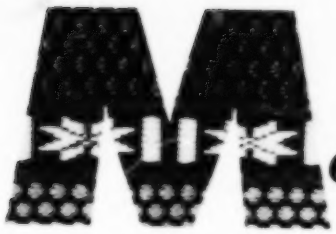
Indigenous Peoples

Who are the world's indigenous peoples?

They are the descendants of the first known peoples in their regions, strikingly different in their cultures, religions and patterns of social and economic organization from more recent immigrants, colonizers, and modernizers.

An estimated 300 million indigenous people live in more than 70 countries, from the Arctic to the Amazon, from Asia and Africa to Australia and New Zealand.

They are basically no longer remote and isolated people in remote and isolated places. But they are frequently treated as outcasts. In fact, together in all their variety, they are one of the modern world's most vulnerable and ill-treated groups.

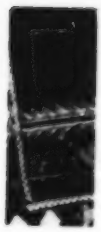


odern World

What does the modern world have to do with indigenous people?

The Arctic and tundra, the tropical and northern forests, the semi-arid rangelands, the mountains and wilder reaches of rivers and coastlines - these are the last frontiers for the modern, industrializing world, hungry for energy, minerals, timber, farmland, living space. They are also home to the world's indigenous peoples.

The fight to save these last ecosystems from the toxic effects of modern industrialization, and thereby rethink the whole meaning and processes of development and modernization, is in the interests not just of the indigenous peoples who live there but of all humanity on planet Earth - North, South, East and West - for the long term.



nternational Year

International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993

A new partnership for:

increased international cooperation in solving the problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, environment, development, education and health;

increased public awareness of the issues and of the concerns of indigenous people themselves, particularly in regard to land, resources, and the kind of development and change they want for their futures, their cultures, their ways of life.

increased effort to strike a balance between the legitimate aspirations of indigenous people and the genuine concerns of States.

The United Nations is currently drafting a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Working Group

United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations
(created in 1982)

Participation in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations is open to all those who view it as an appropriate forum for their concerns, have historical continuity with societies that pre-date colonization, conquest and the creation of nation-states, and wish to preserve and develop their different identities.

In its early years, participants in the Working Group were small in number and came mainly from the Americas (especially North America), Scandinavia and Australia. Today, however, both the numbers and diversity have grown. With some 600 indigenous representatives, including a number from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, it is now, in fact, one of the largest groups working on human rights at the United Nations.

Indigenous participation in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations since its creation in 1982

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL

Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact
Coordinadora de las Organizaciones de la Cuenca Amazónica
Coordinadora Regional de Pueblos Indios de Centroamérica
International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development
International Indian Treaty Council
International Indigenous Commission
Inuit Circumpolar Conference
Indian Council of South America
Indigenous Women's Network
Lauraretl'an Foundation, Inc.
Nordic Sami Institute
Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples
Sami Council
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization
World Council of Indigenous Peoples

AFRICA

Mali

Survie Touareque Temoust

Namibia

Kwanyama Tribe

Nigeria

Ogoni

Rwanda

Minorities Twa Du Rwanda

Tanzania

East African Pastoralists
Hadzabe People
Korongoro Integrated Peoples Oriented to Conservation
Tanganikeld People

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Algonquins of Barrier Lake
Assembly of First Nations
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Barriere Lake Indian Government
Coalition of First Nations
Conseil Algonquin de l'Ouest de Quebec
Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais
Council of Conne River Micmacs
Cree Nation Youth Council
Cree Regional Youth Council
Dene Nation of Canada
Ermineskin Nation
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Four Nations
Four Nations of Hobbema
Grand Council of the Crees
Grand Council Treaty No. 3
Grand Council Treaty No. 9
Gull Bay Indian Band
Independent First Nations Alliance
Indigenous Survival International
Innu Kunanturapatuet
Innu National Council
Inter-Lake Tribal Council (Manitoba)

Inuit Tapariit of Canada
Jackhead Band (Manitoba)
Joseph Bighead First Nation
Lac Seul First Nation
Lil'wat Nation
Louis Bull Indian Nation
Manitoba Chiefs
Metis National Council
Mikmaq Grand Council
Mikmaq Nation
Mohawk Nation
Native Council of Canada
Native Women's Association of Canada
Nishnawbe-Aski Nation
Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council
Sampson Tribe of the Four Nations of Hobbema
Samson Cree Nation
Sarkeeny First Nation
Shoal Lake Ojibway First Nation
Stl'atl'imx Nation
Treaty Six Chiefs
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations
Union of British Columbian Indian Chiefs
Union of New Brunswick Indians
White and Indian Band Canada
World Council of Native Women

United States of America

Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp No. 84
Alaska Native Foundation
Apache Survival Coalition
American Indian Anti-Defamation Blackfeet Nation
Black Hills Teton Sioux Nation
Cheyenne Nations
Dakota Nations
Haudenosaunee - Mohawk Nation
Hawaii Nation
Hopi Indian Tribe
Indian Law Resource Center
Indian Youth Council
Indigenous Native American Task Force
Indigenous World / Mundo Indigena
Kauvelhi Dine Nation (Utah Navajos)
Keepers of the Treasures Cultural Council of American Indians
Knikatnu (Alaska Native Village Corporation)
Lakota Sioux
Lakota Treaty Council
Montana Cree Nation
Montana Indian Nation
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán
National Chicano Human Rights Council
National Indian Youth Council
Navajo Nation
Navajo Nation - Navajo-Hopi Land Commission
North Pacific Rim Aluting
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Oglala Lakota Legal Rights Fund
Ojibway Nation
Onondaga Nation
Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance
San Carlos Apache
Seneca Nation
Sovereignty for Hawaii Committee
Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council
Tsistsistas (Southern Cheyenne) Nation
Tuscarora Nation
United Indian Councils of the Mississauga and Chippewa
Western Shoshone Nation
Yupik Alaska
Yupt Nation

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Belize

Toledo Maya Council
Toledo Maya Cultural Council

Costa Rica

Asociación Indígena de Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Pueblo of Santo Domingo

Guatemala

Comité Campesino del Altiplano Cakchiquel
Comité de Unidad Campesina de Guatemala
Comité Organizador Indígena Cakchiquel
Consejo Central del Pueblo Cuatro Mártires del Pueblo Maya Cakchiquel de Guatemala
Consejo de las Naciones Mayas de Guatemala
Coordinación Maya "Majawil Quij"
Coordinadora Cakchiquel de Desarrollo Integral
Equipo de Trabajo Indígena de Guatemala
Movimiento Cooperativista Guatemalteco
Movimiento de Ayuda y Acción Solidaria Mayas
Parlamento Indígena de América
Representantes del habla Kakchiquel

Honduras

Consejo Asesor Hondureño para el Desarrollo de las Etnias Autóctonas

Mexico

Alianza de Profesionales Indígenas Bilingües
Asamblea de Autoridades Mixe
Azachis Zapoteca
Centro Mazahua
Consejo Regional de Indígenas Marginados Oaxaca
Federación Independiente de Pueblos Indios
Servicios del Pueblo Mixe A.C.
Thahtokan Tzkalotl
Unión de Comuneros "Emiliano Zapata" de Michoacán
Unión de Mujeres de San Antonio Yoadeje
Yankuikanahuak
Zapotec Nation

Nicaragua

Comisión "Paz y Autonomía"
Indigenous Delegation of Nicaragua
Misatan
Miskitu People
Misurasata (Yatama)
Organización Miskito Misatán
Organizacion Sukawala

Panama

Congreso General Guaymi
Movimiento Kuna
Nabguana - Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Asociacion Indígena de la República Argentina
Consejo Coordinador Naciones Indias Argentina
Frente Independiente de Pueblos Indios. Guaraní
Grupo Mujer Educación Indígena. Guaraní
Mapuches de Argentina

Bolivia

Cecujala
Central Indígena del Oriente Boliviano
Centro Cultural de Jóvenes Aymaras
Centro de Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas del Occidente
Chitakolla Center
Comisión Pueblos Oriente Bolivia
Confederación Indígena del Oriente y Amazonia Boliviano

Consejo del Estudio Saber, Originario de la Confederación Nacional de Educadores Populares
Mouvement Tupak Katari
Movimiento Indio "Pedro Vilca Apaza"
Movimiento Juventud Aymara
Movimiento Revolucionario Tupak-katari de Liberación
Organización de Mujeres del Kollasuyo
Partido Indio de Liberación

Brazil

Commission for the Creation of the Yanomami Park
Conselho Indigena Potiguara
Conselho Indigena Roraima
Federacion de Tribus Xicuyues de Joro
Nucleo de Direitos Indigenas
Organizacion Indigena da Amazonia
Potiguara Peoples
Uniad das Nacoes Indigenas
Yavante
Yanomami

Chile

Agrupación Aucán
Aucán Mapuche
Centro Estudios y Documentación Mapuche
Comité Cultural Aymara (Pacha - Anu)
Comité Exterior Mapuche
Consejo de Todas las Tierras
Consejo Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas de Chile
Coordinadora de Organizaciones Mapuches
Federación of Aymar Markas
Mapuche People
Mapuches-Huilliche
Organización Mapuche Ad-Mapu
We Kintún Mapuche

Colombia

Consejo Regional Indigena del Tolima
Movimiento Social Indigena Quintin Lame
Movimiento Quintin Lame
Organización Nacional de Indigenas de Colombia
Organización Indigena Yanama

Ecuador

Comunidad Indigena Ishor
Confederación de Nacionalidades Indigenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana
Federación de Centros Shuar-Ashuar
Confederación de Nacionalidades Indigenas del Ecuador
Federación Shuar
Kechua
Movimiento Independiente Ecuador Ayllu
Organización Pichincha Riccharimui
Organización Pueblos Indigenas

Peru

Alianza Internaciones Inca
Amauta
Asociación de los Estudiantes Indigenas de Madre de Dios
Asociación Integral de Ganaderos en Camélidos de los Andes Altos
Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana
Centro de Culturas Indias Perú
Centro Unión Achuri
Chirapaq
Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tawantinsuyana
Confederación Campesina Indigena del Perú
Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú
Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes
Perú Kechua

Suriname

Coordinadora Tunesaropa
Dwane Moeders Suriname
Lokonon of Suriname
12 Oktober Manifest
Tynasarapa of Suriname
Wayamu
Yarawato of Suriname

Venezuela

Asociación Civil de Pueblos Indígenas Yupko
Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela
Movimiento Indio por la Identidad Nacional

ASIA

Bangladesh

Aboriginal Development Services of Bangladesh
Chakma People from the Chittagong Hill Tracts
Jumma Nation

India

Centre for Tribal Conscientization
Dalit Nations of India
Indian Council of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
Naga National Workers Confederation
Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights
Seed India

Iraq

Mosul Vilayet Council

Japan

Ainu Association of Hokkaido

Malaysia

Iban - Sarawak
Sarawak Indigenous Peoples Alliance

Myanmar

Kachin (Human Rights Committee for Burman Nationalities)
Kachin Independence Organization
Karen National Union

Philippines

Cordillera Peoples Alliance
Aetas' Association of Western Luzon
Consultative Assembly of Minority Peoples of the Philippines
Lumad Mindanao
National Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines

Sri Lanka

Vedda Community

Thailand

Hmong People

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE PACIFIC

Australia

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
Aboriginal Corporation
Aboriginal Nations
Australian South Sea Islanders United Council
Central Land Council
Council of Elders, Murray Island Torres Strait
Iina Torres Strait Islanders Corporation
Kimberly Land Council
National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organization
National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat
National Aboriginal Conference
National Aboriginal Professional and Businesswomen's Association

National Coalition of Aboriginal Organizations
National Committee to Defend Black Rights
National Federation of Land Councils
New South Wales Land Council
Northern Land Council
Secretariat for Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Top End Aboriginal Coalition
Torres Strait Women
West Queenland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Legal Aid

New Zealand

Representatives of Maori Aotearoa:
Ngati Te Ata Tribal Nation
Kaitahu
Raukawa
Ngaiterangi
Tearawa
Ngaitamarawaho
Taranaki
Ngatitewai
Ngati Tuwharatoa
Ngati Kahungunu Tribal Nation
Ngati Pikahi
Ngati Porou Tribal Nation
Ngati Raukawa
Te Rununga O Ngati Porou
Ngato Tuara
Pare Hauraki
Rangitane
Te Runanga O Ngati Awa
Maori Legal Service
Maori Women's Centre
National Maori Congress New Zealand
Waitangi Action Committee

Pacific

Alliance of Taiwan Aborigines
Bougainville Republic
Free Papua Movement
Homeland Mission 1950 for South Moluccas
West Papuan Peoples Front

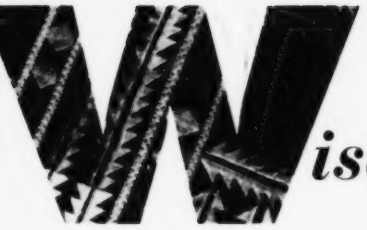
EUROPE

Denmark

Greenland Homerule

Russian Federation

Association of Peoples of the North
Chukchi
Dolgany
Evenу
Evenky
Koryaki
Kola Sami
Nentzy
Yakuty



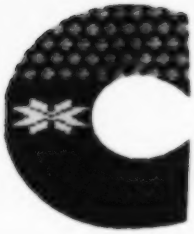
isdom

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...
to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...."

Preamble to the United Nations Charter

Indigenous peoples the world over are, today, finding inspiration and support for their struggles, as others have, in the visionary words of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments of international law.

A Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, currently in the drafting stage, is a long awaited additional instrument of support. It is designed to encourage and cement new and equitable relations between States and the indigenous people within their borders, create a new partnership based on mutual respect and understanding throughout the international community.



Community

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...
to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another
as good neighbours...."

Preamble to the United Nations Charter

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, in 1995, the need to rededicate ourselves to the wisdom of its Charter becomes ever more urgent for all peoples.

Discrimination, dispossession, intolerance have been the lot of many peoples in human history - the dark threads we have in common.

Helping the world's indigenous peoples free themselves from their grip is the special focus of this International Year.

ealth

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...
to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples...."

Preamble to the United Nations Charter

To live with and not against the only world we have is traditional wisdom that the modern world must relearn if the pursuit of economic and social development is to be sustainable - healthy for people and the environment, for the long term.

Indigenous peoples have been less forgetful than others of this essential truth.

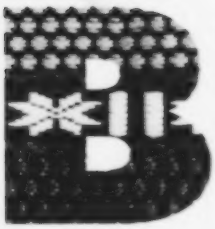
Beauty

"'Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all
Ye know on. arth, and all ye need to know.'"

Ode on a Grecian Urn, John Keats (1795 - 1821)

The aesthetic thread in all human activity is one of the most powerful threads binding us together.

We have chosen to emphasize it in this Exhibit in an effort to reinforce the light strands against the dark, to celebrate the richness and variety of our common endeavours as we struggle to overcome our ugly and seemingly never-ending problems of discrimination and dispossession.



asic Rights

Basic rights for which indigenous peoples are struggling:

Participation without discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their States...

Control of their own development and future ...

Control of their traditional lands and territories, and the resources therein...

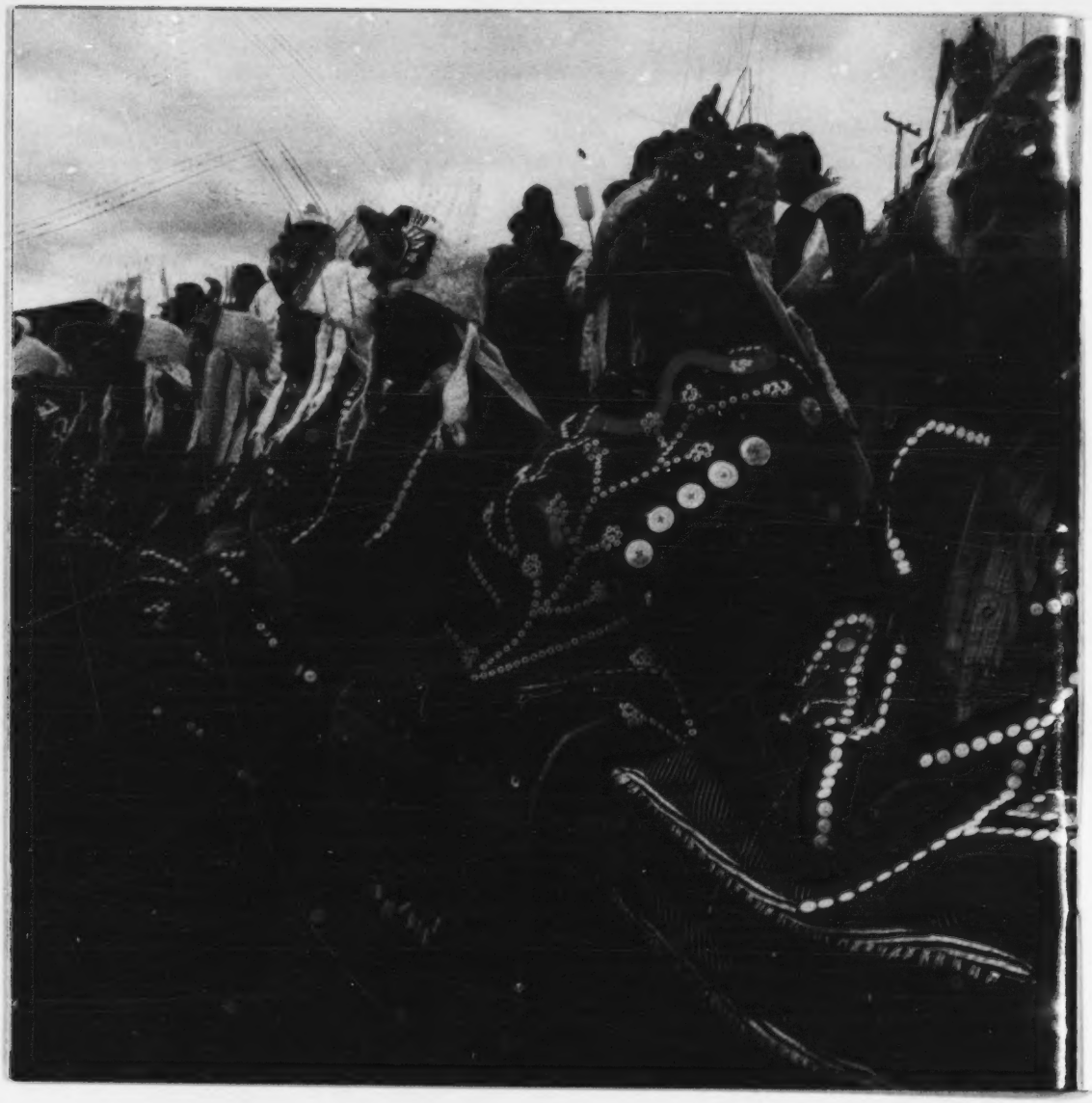
Maintenance and development of their own languages and educational systems in order to preserve their traditions and ways of life...

Fair compensation for their lands...

Fair procedures for conflict resolution...

Protection of legitimate treaty rights and agreements in domestic and international law...

Protection against exploitation of their intellectual and cultural property:
traditional knowledge about medicine, plants, animals and the environment;
sacred sites and structures, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, folklore (oral and written), works of art...



United Nations Background to this International Year

The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** *was a pioneer on behalf of indigenous peoples. Two of its Conventions (No. 107 of 1957, revised as No. 169 of 1989) are at present the only instruments of international law recognizing their rights.*

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) *coined and defined the term "cultural property" in a series of Conventions (1954, 1970, 1972). A* **United Nations** *study is currently under way on how to protect the cultural and intellectual property of indigenous peoples.*

A comprehensive study of discrimination against indigenous peoples was undertaken by the **United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities** *in the 1970s. It was published as* **Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations.** *(United Nations E/CN.4/Sub.2/1986/7 and Add.1-4. The fifth volume,* **Conclusions, Proposals and Recommendations** *is available separately as Sales No. E.86.XIV.3).*

The Sub-Commission's Study led to the creation of a specialized body - the **United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations** *- in 1982. The Working Group has the two-fold task of reviewing recent developments and drafting a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

The **United Nations General Assembly** *is expected to proclaim a* **Decade of the World's Indigenous People,** *before this International Year ends in December.*

Appeal for Contributions

The **Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations** *provides financial assistance to indigenous representatives wishing to participate in the Working Group's meetings in Geneva.*

The **Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People** *provides funding for projects requested by indigenous communities.*

Contributions to these Funds can be sent to:

The Centre for Human Rights,
United Nations,
Palais de Nations,
CH-1211 Geneva 10,
SWITZERLAND.

DPI-1411-93658-10M Exhibit Series (Oct. 1993).